

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DEAE-00 IO-13 JUSE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00

OES-06 OMB-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 CU-02 CAB-02 COME-00

DOT-00 EB-08 FAA-00 /116 W

-----181205Z 106546 /15

R 180915Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3187

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 0763

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SCUL, SNAR, EAIR, CB, TH, UR, BM

SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #10, MARCH 11-18

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1. IENG SARY CONCLUDES VISIT (LOU)

KAMPUCHEA DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IENG SARY CONCLUDED HIS WEEK-LONG "OFFICIAL FRIENDSHIP" VISIT TO BURMA MARCH 14. IN ADDITION TO THE ACTIVITIES ALREADY REPORTED (RANGOON 694) THE KAMPUCHEAN DELEGATION TOURED PAGAN AND MANDALAY, AND IENG SARY PAID A "COURTESY CALL" ON PRESIDENT NE WIN.

IN A BANQUET GIVEN FOR HIS BURMESE HOSTS, IENG SARY DECLARED HIMSELF "VERY SATISFIED AT THE OUTCOME" OF HIS TALKS HERE. PRIME MINISTER U SEIN WIN AGREED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS "HELPED TO ENLARGE THE AREA OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND TO ADVANCE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS."

COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO FIND LITTLE SUBSTANCE TO THE VISIT EXCEPT ITS GOODWILL ASPECTS AND WHATEVER IMPLICATIONS IT MAY HAVE FOR A LESS ISOLATIONIST KHMER FOREIGN POLICY.

2. THAI AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS (UNC)

NEW THAI AMBASSADOR SAKDICHAI BAMRUNGPHONG PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT NE WIN MARCH 16.

COMMENT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BIOGRAPHIC DATA AVAILABLE ON SAKDICHAI IN BANGKOK OR WASHINGTON.

3. POPPY ERADICATION SUCCESSFUL IN KALAW (CONF)

LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN KALAW, SOUTHERN SHAN STATE, HAVE INFORMED CONSUL MANDALAY THAT THE POPPY ERADICATION CAMPAIGN IN THAT TOWNSHIP HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL. DURING THE 1975-76 SEASON 995 ACRES OF POPPY HAD BEEN PLANTED, ALL OF WHICH WERE DESTROYED. CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS YEAR ONLY SEVEN ACRES WERE REPLANTED IN POPPY. AGAIN, THE TOTAL POPPY ACREAGE WAS DESTROYED. OFFICIALS OF THE TOWNSHIP PEOPLE'S COUNCIL EXPLAINED THE AMBITIOUS PROGRAM CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO SUBSTITUTE OTHER CROPS FOR POPPY AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE FORMER POPPY CULTIVATORS. CONSUL MANDALAY'S SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO A TRIBAL VILLAGE NEAR KALAW SEEMED TO BEAR OUT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS' STATEMENTS, AT LEAST AS REGARDS THE LACK OF POPPY CULTIVATION. ON CROP SUBSTITUTION, HOWEVER, THE VILLAGERS SAY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE STRONG ON PROMISES BUT HAVE NOT YET PROVIDED MUCH REAL ASSISTANCE.

4. MORE POPPY ERADICATION REPORTED (UNC)

THE LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT SINCE FEBRUARY, A COMBINED FORCE OF ARMY AND POLICE HAS DESTROYED 790 ACRES OF POPPY IN THE LOI MAW REGION OF NORTHERN AHAN STATE. IN YAUKSAUK TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHERN SHAN STATE 100 ACRES OF POPPY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. LEGAL ACTION

UNDER THE NARCOTICS DRUG LAW WAS TAKEN AGAINST 44 OF
THE POPPY CULTIVATORS.

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5. NARCOTICS ARRESTS AND SEIZURES (UNC)

SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT NARCOTICS BUSTS HAVE RECENTLY
BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS. SIX KILOS OF HEROIN WERE
FOUND DURING AN INSPECTION OF BUS AT A CHECKPOINT IN
SOUTHERN SHAN STATE. THREE PERSONS WERE ARRESTED.
TWO KILOS OF HEROIN WERE SEIZED AND FIVE PERSONS WERE
ARRESTED IN A RAID IN MYITKYINA, KACHIN STATE. TWENTY-
ONE KILOS OF PARTIALLY REFINED OPIATES WERE FOUND ON
BOARD A BUS AT A CHECKPOINT IN SOUTHERN SHAN STATE;
THREE PERSONS WERE ARRESTED. IN THE ARAKAN STATE POLICE
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SEIZED 50 KILOS OF OPIUM FOLLOWING A RAID ON A PRIVATE HOUSE.

6. GUB DENIES STUDENT INCIDENT (LOU)

ON MARCH 15 A SHORT ITEM APPEARED IN BURMESE NEWSPAPERS DENYING (1) THAT THE COVER PICTURE OF THE RANGOON ARTS AND SCIENCES UNIVERSITY ANNUAL CAN BE INTERPRETED IN "VARIOUS WAYS" AND (2) THAT ANYONE HAS BEEN ARRESTED BY THE AUTHORITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT. ANOTHER ARTICLE REPORTED THAT THE STUDENTS ARE BUSILY PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATIONS WHICH BEGIN MARCH 21.

COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER REPORTS OF SERIOUS STUDENT POLITICAL AGITATION OR GUB ARRESTS OF STUDENTS IN RANGOON OR MANDALAY, AND CONSUL MANDALAY REPORTS ALL QUIET ON THE STUDENT FRONT IN TAUNGGYI. (SEE RANGOON 685.) NO ONE, HOWEVER, WILL BE PERSUADED BY THE GUB'S DENIAL OF THE COVER PICTURE'S ANTI-GOVERNMENT SIGNIFICANCE, WHICH IS NOW WIDESPREAD KNOWLEDGE.

7. NE WIN VISITS TROOPS (LOU)

PRESIDENT AND MADAME NE WIN VISITED THE EASTERN AND NORTHEASTERN COMMAND AREAS OF THE SHAN STATE FROM MARCH 8 TO 13. ACCOUNTS OF THE TRIP, PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN THE PRESS, SHOWED THE PRESIDENT VISITING TROOP UNITS, MILITARY HOSPITALS, PEOPLE'S COUNCILS, AND PARTY UNITS. ACCOMPANYING THE PRESIDENT WERE SEVERAL HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY OFFICERS, INCLUDING THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU CHIEF, DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR, AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

COMMENT: FOLLOWING WIDELY-PUBLICIZED TRIPS BY BSPP GENERAL SECRETARY GENERAL SAN YU IN CONNECTION WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRD PARTY CONGRESS AND THE APPARENT STRENGTHENING OF SAN YU'S POSITION WITHIN THE PARTY, THE VISIT SUGGESTS AN ATTEMPT BY THE PRESIDENT TO RETURN TO THE LIMELIGHT, IF NOT A TIMELY REMINDER OF HIS ULTIMATE AUTHORITY AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ARMED FORCES.

8. ATTACHE TOUR ANNOUNCED (LOU)

THE DAO HAS BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE DIRECTOR, DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE, THAT A MILITARY ATTACHE TOUR HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 29 MARCH THROUGH 1 APRIL. THE TOUR WILL BE ARRANGED BY MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND WILL BE CONDUCTED MOSTLY IN THE TAUNGGYI/INLE LAKE AREA. A HIGHLIGHT WILL BE A SPECIAL ONE-DAY TRIP TO

KENG TUNG AND TACHILEK FOR A VISIT WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 88TH DIVISION. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS THAT MILITARY ATTACHES HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO VISIT THE KENG TUNG AREA.

9. BAC PURCHASES MORE TWIN OTTERS (UNC)

ON MARCH 17 BURMA AIRWAYS CORPORATION (BAC) AND DEHAVILLAND CO. OF CANADA SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FOUR TWIN OTTERS WHICH WILL BE FINANCED BY A CANADIAN GOVERNMENT LOAN (WEEK 9, ITEM 8). BAC WILL PAY ABOUT \$4.16 MILLION FOR THE FOUR PLANES INCLUDING SPARE PARTS. THE AIRCRAFT ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN JUNE 1977 AND WILL BE PLACED IN SERVICE THE FOLLOWING MONTH. WHEN THESE PLANES ARE DELIVERED, BAC WILL HAVE A TOTAL OF NINE TWIN OTTERS IN SERVICE.

10. SOVIET FILM DELEGATION VISITS (UNC)

A TWO-MAN FILM DELEGATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION CONCLUDED A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO BURMA. IN ADDITION TO THE STANDARD TOUR OF SCENIC BURMA, THE DELEGATION CONFERRED WITH FILM AND NEWS AND PERIODICALS CORPORATION OFFICIALS, OFFERING COOPERATION IN PROVIDING DOCUMENTARY AND COMMERCIAL FILMS AND TECHNICAL TRAINING IN THE USSR. OSBORN

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